

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0858

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: GOL VIEWS SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH NATO AND EC MEMBERS

1. SUMMARY: LUXEMBOURG'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE NATO AND EC FOREIGN MINISTERS BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY WAS SUCCESSFUL IN EXPLAINING THE REASONS BEHIND THE US NUCLEAR ALERT DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AND IN REBUTTING FRENCH CRITICISM OF USSR-US TIES. THEY NEVERTHELESS QUESTIONED WHETHER ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS BETWEEN A WORLD POWER LIKE THE US AND A FRAGILE ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY POWERS IN THE EC WAS NOW REALISTIC. IF THE US AND EC COULD AGREE
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TO THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF ADVANCE CONSULTATION, THE

SCENARIO USED BY BOTH IN THE PREPARATION FOR CSCE WAS
CITED AS A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR THE FUTURE. END COMMENT

2. ON DECEMBER 18, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH
GAVE CHARGE HIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER THORN'S REACTIONS TO
THE SEVERAL MEETINGS ATTENDED BY THE SECRETARY IN BRUSSELS
ON DECEMBER 9, 10 AND 11 WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF
NATO AND THE EC.

3. WURTH SAID THAT THE SECRETARY HAD BEEN "VERY CONVINC-
ING" IN HIS EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS BEHIND THE US
NUCLEAR ALERT AND IN REITERATING HIS FORECFUL REBUTTAL OF
FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO THE US-USSR AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION
OF NUCLEAR WAR. WURTH FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT THE GOL
WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEE THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE
NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES ASSOCIATED MORE CLOSELY TO THE
CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. HE REITERATED THE
VIEW THAT IT IS MUCH EASIER TO ORGANIZE POLITICAL, AND
EVEN ECONOMIC, CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC IN
THE NATO FORUM, WHERE THE US ENJOYS FULL MEMBERSHIP, THAN
IN A NINE PLUS ONE CONTEXT. WURTH COMMENTED THAT THE NON-
EC MEMBERS OF NATO WOULD UNDERSTANDABLY RESENT ANY
SYSTEMATIC COORDINATION OF POLICY IN A NINE PLUS ONE
SETTING.

4. WURTH THEN WENT ON TO INDICATE THAT THE GOL REGARDS
THE ISSUE OF US-EC CONSULTATIONS AS PARTICULARLY
DELICATE. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER IT WOULD REALLY HAVE BEEN
IN THE US INTEREST TO CONSULT FULLY DURING THE MIDDLE
EAST CRISIS SINCE FRANCE COULD HAVE USED ADVANCE INFORMA-
TION RECEIVED FROM THE US TO STAKE OUT ITS OWN POSITION
IN THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE. CONSULTATIONS,
HE CAUTIONED, DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT COMMON POSITIONS
WILL BE ARRIVED AT. THUS, THE RECIPROCITY INVOLVED IN
CONSULTING FULLY MIGHT FINALLY BE A GREATER BURDEN FOR
THE US WHICH HAS AN ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE TO PLAY,
THAN FOR THE EC WHICH IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING A TIMID ENTRY
ON THE WORLD SCENE.

5. IN A RELATED POINT, WURTH REITERATED THE NEED FOR THE
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EC TO AGREE ON POSITIONS BEFORE CONSULTING WITH THE US.
IN DISCUSSING THE DANGER OF HAVING THE EC PRESENT THE US
WITH "FAITS ACCOMPLIS", WHICH WOULD THEN MAKE IT DIFFICULT
FOR THE US TO TAKE EC VIEWS INTO CONSIDERATION IN THE
FORMULATION OF OUR OWN POSITIONS, THE SUBJECT OF COORDINA-
TION OF BOTH EC AND US POLICIES IN THE PREPARATION AND
NEGOTIATIONS AT CSCE CAME UP. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, WURTH
OBSERVED THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE EC TO EVENTUALLY

AGREE TO A THREE STAGE PROCEDURE CONSISTING OF:

1) FORMULATION OF A COMMON STATEMENT OF EC POLICY;
2) CONSULTATIONS WITH THE US; AND 3) PRESENTATION OF
EC DECISIONS TO THIRD INTERESTED PARTIES. WHILE SUCH A
SEQUENCE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE "FORMALIZED OR INSTITUTION-
ALIZED" THE CSCE EXERCISE HAD SHOWN THAT EC SOLIDARITY
COULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH CONSULTATION WITH THE US. AS
EXPECTED, WURTH PREDICTED THAT ONLY THE FRENCH WOULD
LIKELY HAVE FUNDAMENTAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE SCENARIO
MENTIONED ABOVE.

6. WURTH ALSO OBSERVED THAT THE GOL AGREES WITH THE
SECRETARY'S SUGGESTION TO STREAMLINE AND SIMPLIFY THE
US-EC DECLARATION. AS A FINAL COMMENT HE NOTED THAT
THE RESTRICTED NATO MINISTERS MEETING HAD NOT BEEN
PRODUCTIVE BECAUSE IT HAD NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY PREPARED,
AND NONE OF THE MINISTERS KNEW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM IT.
WURTH SAID THAT THE GOL STRONGLY ENDORSED THE RESTRICTED
FORUM, BUT THAT A LIST OF SUBJECTS SHOULD BE AGREED ON
BEFOREHAND BY THE PARTICIPANTS. TARNOFF

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